XIII. *Obſervations on the milky Appearance of ſome Spots of Water in the Sea*; *by* the Same.

Read March 12, 1772. IT has been remarked by ſeveral navigators, on their paſſage from Mocha to Bombay, Surat, &c. that they had diſcovered in the night ſpots of water as white as milk, and could never aſſign any reaſon for it; and many have been ſo much alarmed, that they have immediately hove to and ſounded; but I never heard of any body ever getting ground. In my paſſage acroſs thoſe ſeas in the Kelſall, I diſcovered all of a ſudden, about 8 o'clock in the evening, the water all round me as white as milk (intermixt with ſtreaks or ſerpentine lines of black water). I immediately drew a bucket of it, and carried it to the light, where it appeared juſt as other water; I drew ſeveral more, and found it the ſame: ſome I kept till the next morning, when I could perceive no difference from that alongſide. We had run by the log 50 min. from the time we firſt obſerved it till daylight, and during all that time the water continued white as milk, but at full daylight it was of its uſual colour. The next evening about 7 o'clock the water appeared again as white as before; I then drew another bucket and carried it to a very dark place, and holding my head cloſe to the bucket could perceive,

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ceive, with my naked eye, an innumerable quantity of animalcules floating about alive, which enlightened that ſmall body of water to an amazing degree. From thence I conclude that the whole maſs of water muſt be filled with this ſmall fiſh ſpawn or animalcules, and that this is without all doubt the reaſon of the water's appearing ſo white in the night-time. We run by the log, from the time we firſt ſaw it till the latter part of the ſecond night (the time we loſt ſight of it) about 170 miles.

N. B. Latitude about 15° 10′ N. and S. W. diſt. from Cape Aden 12° 18′ E.

On the 30th of Auguſt 1769, at 3 o'clock in the morning, I ſaw a comet 8° 20′ from Aldebaran S. W. and the tail ſtreaming to the Weſtward.

I made the meridian diſtance from Cape Aden to Striking Sounding on the Malabar coaſt (in the lat. of 14° 2′ N.) 27° 31′ E.